Debt Redemption Scheme.

117. *MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the action that has been taken, if any, and the steps that they propose taking regarding the Debt Redemption Scheme recently submitted to Government by certain representatives of the people; and

(*b*) whether there was a discussion of the same by the Dewan with the said representatives at Bhaktivilas and, if so, what is the action taken by Government in furtherance of the same?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): (*a*) and (*b*) A committe has been appointed to enquire into the question agricultural indebtedness.

Marketing Officers.

118. *MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose appointing a few Marketing Officers and, if so, their pay and status, the number of officers so proposed to be appointed, their jurisdiction and functions?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The Government propose to appoint two Marketing Officers, a Senior Marketing Officer on Rs. 200-10/2-250 per mensem and a Junior Marketing Officer on Rs. 100-10/2-150 per mensem. Their functions are to conduct, in co-operation with the Imperial and Provincial staff of Marketing Officers, a survey of the marketing of agricultural products including dairy and animal husbandry products and fish, to detect defects in existing practices and suggest remedies. The officers have to conduct their work on a commodity basis and therefore their jurisdiction will be coextensive over the whole State.

Education Department Co-operative Benefit Fund.

119. *MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to the Education Department Co-operative Benefit Fund:

(*a*) whether the Director of Public Instruction has reported to Government expressing his willingness to be the President of the Fund and recommending that the members thereof be exempted from the operation of the Government Provident Fund Rules which compel them to join the latter Fund; and

(*b*) whether they have passed their decision on his recommendations?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) and (*b*). The answers are in the affirmative.

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LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

THE TRAVANCORE VAKILS REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I move that the Travancore Vakils Regulation (Amendment) Bill be read in this Assembly.

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (*Nominated*) : I second it.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir, this Bill was introduced in the last session of the Assembly, and much discussion has already taken place on its principles. From the Statement of Objects and Reasons given in the Bill, it would be clear that this is an important measure. The two principles involved in the Bill are (1) to give statutory basis for the qualification and admission of vakils practising in the High Court and subordinate Courts in the State, and (2) to remove the ban or the bar or the inferiority complex of the second grade pleaders in the State and to raise their status. While the Bill was under discussion in the last session of the Assembly, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party made the suggestion that, if I would permit to amend the Bill as to enable Second Grade Pleaders of ten years' standing and more to practise in the District Courts, and if I would not press the grant of High Court sannad to First Grade Pleaders of some years standing, in the Select Committee stage, the Bill would be acceptable to all, at least to many. I may say, Sir, that I am prepared to accept that suggestion.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : May I ask whether the member accepts the position that First Grade Pleaders need not be admitted as High Court Vakils ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I do accept that position at present, Sir, as a sort of compromise.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I ask whether the First Grade Pleaders, the persons concerned, are prepared to accept that position ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I am the member in charge of the Bill ; and I say that I am prepared to accept that position.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know whether the member introducing the Bill represents the First Grade Pleaders in Travancore ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I represent the Travancore Legislature, Sir (*Laughter.*)

There are about 1,843 vakils in all in Travancore, out of whom 286 alone are enrolled as vakils of the High Court. Of these 286, only about 232 are actually practising before the High Court. There are about 478 graduates-in-law practising before the subordinate courts. There are about 81 First Grade Pleaders practising in the District Courts and about 927 Second Grade Pleaders are practising in the Munsiffs Courts in the

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